

## CONVERTIBLE TABLE ASSEMBLY

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### Claim of Priority

The present application is a continuation-in-part application of previously filed, now pending application which is set to issue on December 9, 2003, as U.S. Patent No. 6,659,879, having Serial No. 09/976,737, filed on October 12, 2001.

#### Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a table assembly which is capable of being selectively converted between a conventional orientation, for use in a conventional manner, and a gaming orientation, for use as a gaming table suitable for playing the game of billiards and possibly other games.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

The game of billiards as well as the related game of "pool" or pocket billiards has enjoyed continued popularity for a number of years. A conventional billiard table generally includes an outer playing surface or face with a normally large area which may vary depending on whether the pool table is of a professional or regulation size or of a smaller size typically found in restaurants, lounges, etc. When structuring a

1 professional or regulation table, the entire outer face is  
2 typically made from an extremely hard substance such as marble,  
3 slate, etc. Such material is generally recognized as being long  
4 lasting and relatively heavy. As such, the table includes a  
5 relatively extensive support structure made from solid wood or  
6 other materials. As a result, a conventional billiard table is  
7 typically quite heavy and includes a sufficiently large  
8 dimension and configuration to make such table assemblies either  
9 impractical or undesirable for use and installation in many  
10 locations.

11 In addition, the legacy of pool is such that many of the  
12 standard size tables are adorned with expensive wood working  
13 and/or inlay designs. As a result, the cost of a billiard  
14 and/or pool table can be quite high, thereby further rendering  
15 such tables undesirable for a vast majority of the consuming  
16 public. In spite of the disadvantages associated with the cost,  
17 weight, size, etc. of a pool or billiard table, the popularity  
18 of the sport has not significantly dwindled. Those interested  
19 in the playing of billiards universally recognize that a certain  
20 amount of inconvenience is involved since such tables and  
21 particularly standard size billiard tables are not practical for  
22 use in the average home.

23 In order to overcome the disadvantages and problems of the  
24 type set forth, there have been numerous attempts in the prior  
25 art to develop a modified table construction which is lighter,

1 less expensive, smaller and as a result is more obtainable by  
2 the average consumer or billiards player. Conventional or known  
3 modifications in the prior art include the provision of  
4 collapsible or folding table which can be manipulated and/or  
5 otherwise oriented so as to facilitate the storage of the  
6 billiard table when not in use. In addition, even when such  
7 modified structures are left in their operative positions they  
8 are significantly lighter and usually smaller thereby enabling  
9 their positioning into and out of a stored location with  
10 relative ease. While operable and at least somewhat effective  
11 for their intended purpose foldable, collapsible or similarly  
12 structured billiard or like gaming tables may often suffer from  
13 a lack of stability. Accordingly, anyone familiar with the  
14 playing of billiards or pocket billiards is well aware that the  
15 stability of the table and playing surface is very important,  
16 especially to those who play the game on a more serious level.

17 As a result of the disadvantages associated with such  
18 foldable tables, further attempts in the prior art have resulted  
19 in a variety of differently structured conversion tables. This  
20 type of table assembly is capable of being selectively changed  
21 or converted from a table intended for conventional use into a  
22 gaming or other purpose table. In addition, numerous tables of  
23 this type are specifically designed and structured for the  
24 playing of billiards, pool, bumper pool, or other appropriate  
25 gaming activities.

1           In fact, such conversion tables do overcome at least some  
2 of the disadvantages and problems associated with collapsible  
3 gaming tables. In addition, such tables are generally less  
4 expensive, lighter and therefore more adaptable for use and/or  
5 positioning within a conventional household environment.  
6 However, such conversion tables have not gained wide spread  
7 popularity or use do at least in part to their being structured  
8 in a manner which does not truly represent the appearance of  
9 conventional table assembly when not being used as a gaming  
10 table. More specifically, the structural components or features  
11 which allow such table assemblies to be converted into a gaming  
12 table or the like, typically are obvious and/or unsightly when  
13 such table assemblies are in a conventional mode of operation.

14           There is a long existing need for a table assembly which  
15 can be easily and efficiently disposed between a conventional  
16 orientation and a gaming orientation. Moreover when in the  
17 gaming orientation such an improved table assembly should be  
18 structured to be strong, stable and include various structural  
19 features which enable the playing of at least one particular  
20 game, such as the game of billiards or pocket billiards. Also  
21 when in the conventional orientation the improved table assembly  
22 should be capable of being used in the intended manner such as  
23 a dinning room table or the like for which the table is normally  
24 used.

25           Importantly when in the conventional orientation, the

1 appearance of the table assembly should be pleasing and in  
2 certain instances variable such that it is difficult or  
3 impossible to recognize that the table assembly may be converted  
4 into a gaming table. Also the versatility of such an improved  
5 table assembly should be such as to blend in with a variety of  
6 different interior designs. Finally such an improved table  
7 assembly should be formed from various materials and components  
8 which allow the playing of the intended game in a proficient  
9 manner while at the same time providing durability and a long  
10 operable life whether it is used primarily in the conventional  
11 orientation or the gaming orientation.

#### 13 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

14 This invention relates to a table assembly capable of being  
15 used in the conventional manner, such as when disposed in a  
16 conventional orientation or alternatively as a gaming table,  
17 when disposed in a gaming orientation. When in the  
18 aforementioned gaming orientation the various structural and  
19 operative components of the table assembly are particularly  
20 adaptable for the playing of the game of billiards thereon. In  
21 addition, with little or no structural modification or  
22 variation, related games such as, but not limited to "pool" or  
23 pocket billiards and/or "bumper pool" can also be played.  
24 Accordingly, when the table assembly is in the gaming  
25 orientation it is emphasized that it can be used to play games

1 other than those indicated above and still be encompassed in the  
2 intended spirit and scope of the present invention.

3 Accordingly, the table assembly of the present invention  
4 comprises a table top including an outer surface. The outer  
5 surface is preferably disposed in a substantially horizontal  
6 orientation and in effect defines the playing surface on which  
7 the various games are performed when the table assembly is in  
8 the gaming orientation. It is also noted that the outer surface  
9 may include some type of felt or like material covering which  
10 may be fixedly or permanently attached to the outer surface.  
11 Alternatively, the surface covering may be disposed and  
12 structured to facilitate the temporary covering of the outer  
13 surface, and used when games are to be played thereon. As such,  
14 the outer surface will remain uncovered or include a different  
15 more practical covering when used in the conventional manner  
16 such as, but not limited to, a dining table.

17 The table assembly of the present invention also includes  
18 a support assembly comprising a plurality of legs or a variety  
19 of other types of support bases or structures. The support  
20 assembly is fixedly secured to an under portion, wherein the  
21 under portion is disposed beneath the table top. In certain  
22 structural embodiments of the present invention the under  
23 portion may be considered a part of the overall support in that  
24 it is generally disposed in interconnecting relation between the  
25 support assembly and the table top. As such the table top,

1 effectively rests on a brace or frame which at least partially  
2 defines the under portion. In such an embodiment, both the  
3 under portion and the table top are supported by the plurality  
4 of legs or other support structure defining the support  
5 assembly. It is also emphasized that the under portion is  
6 structured to include certain openings or spaces for the  
7 removable containment and storage of a conversion assembly and  
8 an associated positioning assembly, to be described hereinafter.

9 It is to be understood that the table assembly may include  
10 a variety of different dimensions and configurations. However,  
11 the overall dimension and configuration of the table assembly  
12 and in particular the table top and outer surface may be  
13 structured so as to at least generally comply with or facilitate  
14 the playing of a particular game. By way of example, the games  
15 of billiards and pocket billiards generally require the use of  
16 a rectangular table top and outer surface surrounded by raised  
17 side rails extending along each of the four sides of the  
18 aforementioned configuration. Therefore, when it is intended to  
19 convert the table assembly of the present invention from a  
20 conventional orientation into a gaming table, wherein a game of  
21 billiards is to be played, the table top will assume a generally  
22 rectangular, multi-sided configuration.

23 Naturally, the overall configuration of the table top could  
24 vary based on the intent to design a table assembly which may be  
25 converted into a gaming table on which games, other than

1 billiards, pool, etc. are to be played. Therefore, while the  
2 rectangular or multi-sided configuration may be utilized in at  
3 least one preferred embodiment of the present invention, the  
4 overall dimension and configuration of the table assembly may  
5 vary greatly and still be included within the intended spirit  
6 and scope of the present invention. However, for purposes of  
7 clarity, the various preferred embodiments of the present  
8 invention will be described with reference to a table top and  
9 outer surface having a multi-sided configuration which  
10 facilitates the playing of the game of billiards thereon.

11 The table assembly of the present invention further  
12 includes a conversion assembly movably mounted and selectively  
13 positionable between a stored position and an operative  
14 position. Further, the conversion assembly preferably includes  
15 a plurality of conversion members sufficient in number and  
16 cooperatively disposed such that each of the conversion members,  
17 when in the aforementioned operative position, are disposed  
18 above and in overlying relation to the peripheral portions of  
19 the each of the sides of the table top.

20 Variations in the structuring of the conversion members may  
21 be such that each of the sides of the table top are covered by  
22 a single, elongated conversion member. Alternatively, the  
23 plurality of conversion members may be dimensioned and  
24 structured such that at least one side of the table top requires  
25 a plurality of conversion members to extend along substantially



1 its entire length, when they are in the operative position. In  
2 one preferred embodiment, the conversion members are more  
3 specifically structured to define a side rail, of the type used  
4 in playing the game of billiards. However, it is again noted  
5 that the side rails may assume a variety of different structures  
6 which more closely correspond to or are required in the playing  
7 of games other than billiards.

8 Another feature of each of the preferred embodiments of the  
9 present invention is the inclusion of a positioning assembly.  
10 The positioning assembly is disposed and structured to movably  
11 position and support each of the plurality of conversion members  
12 as they are moved between the stored position and the operative  
13 position. Also, at least a portion of the positioning assembly  
14 moves with the conversion members in support thereof when the  
15 conversion members are moved between the operative position and  
16 the stored position.

17 As set forth above, one problem associated with known or  
18 conventional types of conversion tables is the inability to  
19 present an attractive appearance when the conversion table is in  
20 its conventional orientation. It is of course desirable to  
21 utilize a conversion table as a conventional piece of furniture  
22 including its ability to fit into the surrounding motif and  
23 design features of a dining room or other area where a table is  
24 normally utilized. Therefore, one feature of the various  
25 preferred embodiments of the present invention is the ability to

1 present an aesthetically pleasing appearance of the table  
2 assembly, particularly when the table assembly is oriented for  
3 conventional use.

4 The convertible table assembly of the present invention  
5 comprises yet another preferred embodiment which is structured  
6 to add to the overall appearance as well as the utility of table  
7 assembly especially when the conversion assembly is in the  
8 stored position. More specifically, this preferred embodiment  
9 of the present invention comprises at least one, but more  
10 practically, a plurality of cover members secured to the  
11 tabletop adjacent the peripheral portions or sides thereof.  
12 Each of the one or more cover members extends outwardly from the  
13 periphery of the tabletop in an orientation which is preferably,  
14 but not necessarily, in substantially co-planar relation to the  
15 table top and/or the outer surface thereof.

16 In a most preferred embodiment the plurality of cover  
17 members extend along at least a majority, but preferably the  
18 entire length of each of the peripheral sides of the tabletop.  
19 As such, the plurality of cover members collectively surround  
20 the periphery so as to expand or enlarge the usable outer  
21 exposed surface of the table assembly. Hence, it is preferred  
22 that the cover members are disposed in substantially co-planar  
23 relation to the outer surface 14 thereby further facilitating  
24 the expansion or enhancement of that surface.

25 When in a connected, operable position, the cover members

1 overly and thereby at least partially, visually obscure the  
2 conversion assembly. However, support for each of the one or  
3 more cover members is provided by the positioning of  
4 corresponding ones of the conversion members or side rails  
5 partially outward from the aforementioned stored position. In  
6 such an outwardly extended position, each of the conversion  
7 members are disposed in a supporting relation to a bottom or  
8 undersurface of respective ones of the cover members.

9 As set forth above, each of the side rails or conversion  
10 members preferably have a longitudinal dimension sufficient to  
11 extend along correspondingly positioned sides of the tabletop.  
12 Similarly, the cover members preferably include a longitudinal  
13 dimension substantially the same as the side of the table top to  
14 which they are attached. This cooperative dimensioning and  
15 positioning of the corresponding ones of the conversion members  
16 and cover members allows the conversion members to supportingly  
17 engage the undersurface of the cover members when the cover  
18 members are secured to the table top, in the manner set forth  
19 above.

20 Further, each of the one or more cover members are  
21 removably attached to the tabletop adjacent the peripheral  
22 portion or edge of a corresponding side of the tabletop.  
23 Therefore, when it is desired to position the side rails or  
24 conversion members in the operative position, each of the one or  
25 more cover members are quickly and easily disconnected or

1 otherwise removed from their operative position. The conversion  
2 members or side rails are thereby free to be selectively and  
3 independently disposed into their respective operative  
4 positions.

5 These and other objects, features and advantages of the  
6 present invention will become more clear when the drawings as  
7 well as the detailed description are taken into consideration.

8  
9 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 For a fuller understanding of the nature of the present  
11 invention, reference should be had to the following detailed  
12 description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings  
13 in which:

14 Figure 1 is a side view of the table assembly of the  
15 present invention disposed in a conventional orientation for use  
16 in a conventional manner.

17 Figure 2 is an side view in partial cutaway showing one of  
18 a plurality of conversion structures, preferably in the form of  
19 a side rail, disposed in a stored position, wherein a portion of  
20 the apron of the embodiment of Figure 1 is removed for purposes  
21 of clarity.

22 Figure 3 is a side view in partial cutaway, wherein the  
23 conversion structure or side rail is disposed in an intermediate  
24 position between the stored position of Figure 2 to an operative  
25 position.

1           Figure 4 is a side view in partial cutaway of one of the  
2 plurality of conversion structures or side rails being disposed  
3 in an operative position relative to a corresponding periphery  
4 of a table top of the table assembly.

5           Figure 5 is a perspective view in partial cut away of the  
6 table assembly of the present invention wherein the conversion  
7 structures or side rails are in an operative position.

8           Figure 6 is a top view of the embodiment of Figure 5.

9           Figure 7 is a side view in partial cross section and  
10 cutaway of yet another preferred embodiment of the present  
11 invention directed to one or more cover members.

12           Figure 8 is a top view of the embodiment of Figure 7 with  
13 a plurality of cover members disposed in an operative position.

14           Like reference numerals refer to like parts throughout the  
15 several views of the drawings.

16  
17           DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

18           As shown in the accompanying drawings, the present  
19 invention relates to a table assembly generally indicated as 10  
20 which is capable of being selectively converted between a  
21 conventional orientation, as disclosed in Figure 1 and a gaming  
22 orientation, as disclosed in Figures 5 and 6. In the  
23 conventional orientation, the table assembly 10 is intended to  
24 be utilized in the normal fashion as a dinning room table or for  
25 other purposes for which tables are normally used. However,

1 when in the gaming orientation the table assembly 10 is  
2 structured to facilitate the playing of one or more games  
3 thereon. By way of example only, the various structural  
4 features of the present invention facilitate the playing of the  
5 game of billiards, pocket billiards or any related game  
6 requiring the inclusion of a plurality of surrounding side rails  
7 or "bumpers". However, it is emphasized with minimal structural  
8 modification the various games to be played on the table  
9 assembly 10, when in its gaming orientation, could vary greatly.

10 Accordingly, the table assembly 10 comprises a table top 12  
11 including an outer surface 14 and a support assembly generally  
12 indicated as 16. In at least some of the preferred embodiments,  
13 the support assembly 16 comprises a plurality of individual,  
14 spaced apart legs 18 disposed beneath and in supporting relation  
15 to the table top 12. However, it is emphasized that the support  
16 assembly 16 could take a variety of different structures  
17 including a single support base or one or more legs differing in  
18 size, location, configuration, etc. from the legs 18 as shown.

19 In addition, the table assembly 10 includes an apron 20.  
20 When the table assembly 10 is in its conventional orientation  
21 the apron 20 is disposed beneath the table top 12 and in  
22 somewhat surrounding relation to an under portion 22. The under  
23 portion 22 is generally and at least partially defined by a  
24 plurality of openings or spaces 22' located beneath the table top  
25 12. The under portion 22 also may include a brace assembly

1 and/or support frame 24 disposed in interconnecting relation  
2 between an under surface of the table top 12 and the support  
3 assembly 16. It is emphasized that the brace assembly or frame  
4 24 may take a variety of different configurations dependent upon  
5 the overall size, configuration and intended structural  
6 integrity of the table assembly 10. However, the structural  
7 features of the brace assembly or support frame 24 are such as  
8 to not interfere with the existence of the plurality of openings  
9 or spaces as at 22', for reasons to be explained in greater  
10 detail hereinafter.

11 The table assembly 10 of the present invention further  
12 comprises a conversion assembly generally indicated as 26 and  
13 including a plurality of conversion members 28. The dimension  
14 and configuration of each of the conversion members 28 are  
15 dependent, at least to some extent, on the intended appearance  
16 of the table assembly 10 when in its conventional orientation of  
17 Figure 1. However, to a greater extent, the plurality of  
18 conversion members 28 depend on the intended game or categories  
19 of games intended to be performed on the table top 12 and the  
20 outer surface 14. Again, assuming that the games to be played  
21 include billiards, pocket billiards, bumper pool, etc. the  
22 plurality of conversion members 28 will comprise side rails. As  
23 such, each of the side rails include a base 30 and a cushion  
24 portion 32. Regardless of their overall configuration and  
25 intended purpose, each of the conversion members 28 comprises an

1 elongated configuration of sufficient length to extend along  
2 substantially the entire length, or at least a majority of the  
3 length of a correspondingly disposed side or peripheral portion  
4 12' of the table top 12.

5 With reference to Figures 5 and 6, it is seen that each of  
6 the sides or peripheral portions 12' of the table top 12 and  
7 outer surface 14 are covered along substantially the entire  
8 lengths thereof by a single, different, conversion member 28.  
9 However, it is recognized that in certain applications it may be  
10 desirable to include a plurality of the conversion members 28,  
11 disposed in linearly aligned relation to one another, such that  
12 more than one conversion member 28 extends along a corresponding  
13 peripheral portion or edge 12'.

14 With reference to Figures 2 through 4, each of the  
15 conversion members 28 are capable of being selectively disposed  
16 between a stored position, as shown in Figure 2, or an operative  
17 position, as shown Figure 4. When in the stored position, the  
18 conversion assembly 26, including each of the conversion members  
19 28, are disposed beneath the table top 12 and at least partially  
20 within the openings or spaces 22' of the under portion 22. As  
21 such, the table assembly 10 will be disposed in the conventional  
22 orientation as shown in Figure 1. However, when it is desired  
23 to position the table assembly 10 in the gaming orientation, as  
24 shown in Figures 5 and 6, each of the plurality of conversion  
25 members 28 are moved along a predetermined path of travel from



1 the stored position of Figure 2 through the intermediate  
2 position of Figure 3 and eventually into the operative position  
3 of Figure 4.

4 Efficient conversion of the table assembly 10 from its  
5 conventional orientation to its gaming orientation is  
6 accomplished, at least in part, through the provision of a  
7 positioning assembly generally indicated as 40. The positioning  
8 assembly 40 comprises a plurality of linkage structures serving  
9 to movably support each of the conversion members 28 preferably,  
10 but not necessarily, independently of one another as they are  
11 moved from their stored position to their operative position.

12 In at least one preferred embodiment each of the linkage  
13 structures include one or more articulated links 42 slidingly or  
14 otherwise movably mounted within a supporting track 44. The  
15 supporting track 44 is secured, either movably or fixedly, to  
16 the brace assembly or support frame 24 within the under portion  
17 22. The link or arm 42 may be pivotally or hingedly attached to  
18 the individual conversion members 28 as at 46 as well as to the  
19 remainder of the positioning assembly 40 and/or supporting track  
20 44 as at 48. Therefore, the positioning assembly 40 includes a  
21 plurality of articulated linkage structures, each of which  
22 include one or more links 42 moveable with and concurrently  
23 supporting the plurality of conversion members 28.

24 Again with reference to Figure 2 through 4, as the  
25 conversion assembly 26 moves between the conventional

1 orientation and the gaming orientation, each of the conversion  
2 members 28 travel along a predetermined path of travel. This  
3 predetermined path of travel comprises what may be referred to  
4 as a complex configuration of movement including different path  
5 segments. More specifically, when it is desired to move one or  
6 more of the conversion members 28 from their stored position to  
7 their operative position, a linearly directed pulling force is  
8 exerted thereon as indicated by directional arrow 50 in Figure  
9 3. Once the respective conversion member 28 is removed from the  
10 openings or spaces 22' within the under portion 22 it may then  
11 pass through a rotational movement or path segment as indicated  
12 by directional arrow 52 in Figure 4. Accordingly, when in its  
13 operative position, the conversion member 28 is disposed such  
14 that the base 30 is in overlying relation to the peripheral  
15 portion 12' of the table top 12. Also in such operative  
16 position, the cushion portion 32 is located above the peripheral  
17 portion 22 and in inwardly spaced, over hanging reaction to both  
18 the peripheral portion 12' and the outer surface 14.

19 While one preferred embodiment of the positioning assembly  
20 40 includes the plurality of linkage structures, as described  
21 above, it is emphasized that the positioning assembly 40 may  
22 assume a variety of different structural configurations and  
23 operative components. The positioning assembly 40 may differ  
24 from the embodiment as set forth above in order to best  
25 facilitate the travel and placement of the plurality of

1 conversion members 28 from the stored position of Figure 2,  
2 through the intermediate position of Figure 3 and eventually  
3 into the operative position of Figure 4.

4 Also, when in the operative position and particularly when  
5 the conversion members 28 are in the form of side rails  
6 including base 30 and cushion portion 32, one additional  
7 preferred embodiment has the base 30 including a receiving  
8 portion 31. The receiving portion 31 is preferably in the form  
9 of an elongated recess dimensioned and configured to  
10 substantially correspond to and matingly receive the peripheral  
11 portion 12' therein. The receiving portion 31 therefore adds  
12 overall stability to the conversion member or side rail 28 when  
13 it is disposed in its operative position of Figure 4.

14 As set forth above it is preferable to maintain an overall  
15 desirable appearance of the table assembly 10 particularly when  
16 it is in its conventional orientation. Therefore, when the  
17 conversion assembly 26 and specifically each of the conversion  
18 members 28 are in their respective stored positions of Figure 2,  
19 they are at least partially disposed within the openings or  
20 spacings 22'. When so disposed, each of the conversion members  
21 are effectively hidden or in a substantially non-observable  
22 location.

23 In order to further enhance the appearance of the table  
24 assembly 10 when in its conventional orientation, the  
25 aforementioned aprons 20 may be secured to or considered an

1 integral part of the outer surface of the base 30 and/or  
2 conversion member 28. Therefore, when the conversion members 28  
3 are disposed in their respective stored positions, the aprons 20  
4 will be automatically disposed in their conventional location as  
5 shown in Figure 1. The appearance of the table assembly 10 is  
6 thereby enhanced, without requiring additional mounting or  
7 positioning of a detached apron 20. It is of course recognized  
8 that in certain instances it may be more desirable to removably  
9 attached the apron 20 to the various conversion members 28 or  
10 otherwise to the under portion 22. Such an additional  
11 embodiment is also contemplated within the spirit and scope of  
12 the present invention.

13 As shown primarily in Figures 5 and 6, the table assembly  
14 10 may include corner inserts 60 or like structures. Such  
15 inserts 60 may be part of one and/or both of the adjacently  
16 positioned conversion members 28. However, as set forth above,  
17 it is also recognized that the table assembly 10, when in its  
18 gaming orientation, may be modified to play the game of pool or  
19 pocket billiards. As such, a plurality of "pockets" may be  
20 added to the table assembly 10. Therefore, the corner inserts  
21 60 can be structured to include some type of opening or pocket  
22 like structure rather than assume the closed configuration or  
23 structure as shown in the accompanying Figures. Also the  
24 conversion members or side rails 28 may be otherwise modified to  
25 include side pockets along the appropriate sides or edges, so as

1 to more closely resemble a conventional pool or pocket billiards  
2 table.

3 With primary reference to Figures 7 and 8, another  
4 preferred embodiment of the table assembly 10 is disclosed in  
5 Figure 7 and 8 and comprises at least one but more practically  
6 a plurality of cover members 70. Each of the one or more cover  
7 members 70 is disposed and structured to extend along a  
8 different one of the plurality of peripheral portions or  
9 peripheral sides 12' of the tabletop 12. As such, a plurality  
10 of the cover members 70 secured to each of the plurality of  
11 peripheral portions or sides 12' will be disposed in  
12 substantially surrounding relation to the outer surface 14.

13 With primary reference to Figure 7, each of the cover  
14 members 70 are removably secured to the tabletop 12 immediately  
15 adjacent or contiguous to corresponding ones of the peripheral  
16 portions or sides 12'. The connection or attachment assembly is  
17 generally indicated as 72 and may comprise a variety of  
18 different structures including a tongue and groove type  
19 attachment as demonstrated. It is emphasized that numerous  
20 other means of connecting each of the cover members 70 to the  
21 respective peripheral portions 12' may be utilized, including  
22 brackets, connectors, etc. Regardless of the means of  
23 attachment or connection as at 72, each of the cover members 70  
24 is removably secured adjacent the corresponding peripheral  
25 portions or sides 12' so as to extend outwardly from the

1 periphery of the tabletop 12. Also, it is preferred, but not  
2 necessary, that the one or more cover members 70 are disposed in  
3 a substantially co-planar relation to the tabletop 12 such that  
4 the outer exposed surface of each of the cover members 70 is  
5 aligned and/or substantially co-planar with the outer surface  
6 14. This provides greater utility to the table assembly 10 by  
7 effectively extending both the longitudinal and transverse  
8 dimensions thereof, such as when the plurality of cover members  
9 70 surround the outer surface 14, as demonstrated in Figure 8.

10 Further, when in the operative position of Figures 7 and 8,  
11 each of the cover members 70 overly and therefor substantially  
12 cover correspondingly portioned portions of the conversion  
13 assembly 26 as well as the under portion 22 and the plurality of  
14 spaces 22' defining the under portion 22. As set forth above,  
15 the outer or laterally exposed surface of each of the conversion  
16 member 26 may define an apron 20 as disclosed in Figures 1 and  
17 2. Accordingly, when the cover member 70 is in its overlying,  
18 covering relation to corresponding ones of the conversion  
19 members 26, a majority of each of the conversion members 26 will  
20 effectively be covered or hidden such that the table assembly  
21 10, when in its conventional orientation, have a natural and  
22 aesthetically pleasing appearance.

23 Additional structural and operative features of the  
24 embodiment of Figures 7 and 8 include the conversion assembly 26  
25 being disposed in supporting relation to the cover member 70 as

1 clearly demonstrated in Figure 7. More specifically, each of  
2 the conversion members 28 defining the conversion assembly 26  
3 are extended outward by virtue of the cooperative structuring  
4 and movement of the links and slides 42 and 44. This  
5 cooperative structuring facilitates the positioning of the  
6 conversion members 28 from their completely stored position  
7 within the spacings 22' of the under portion 22 into the  
8 outwardly extended position of Figure 7. When in the outwardly  
9 extended position, each of the conversion members 28 is disposed  
10 in supporting engagement with an undersurface and/or  
11 understructure 74 of each of the cover members 70. The  
12 undersurface or understructure 74 may be an integral part of or  
13 otherwise be fixedly secured to a remainder of the respective  
14 cover members 70. It is further noted that the respective  
15 dimensions, configurations and dispositions of the conversion  
16 members 28 and the respective cover members 70, as well as the  
17 undersurface or structures 74 thereof, are cooperatively  
18 structured to provide for the reliable supporting engagement, as  
19 set forth above.

20 It should be further noted when it is desired to position  
21 the table assembly 10 in the gaming orientation, each of the  
22 cover members 70 can be independently removed from their  
23 operative position in Figure 7. This allows the individual  
24 conversion members 28 to be rotated or otherwise disposed  
25 upwardly from their stored and/or outwardly extended position

1 into their operative position as demonstrated in Figure 4.

2  
3 Since many modifications, variations and changes in detail  
4 can be made to the described preferred embodiment of the  
5 invention, it is intended that all matters in the foregoing  
6 description and shown in the accompanying drawings be  
7 interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense. Thus,  
8 the scope of the invention should be determined by the appended  
9 claims and their legal equivalents.

10 Now that the invention has been described,